



countdown

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Winds don't deter Discovery from perfect rollout to pad

Learn about relieving stress at displays, demos this week



◆ Shuttle Update:

Space shuttle Discovery is firmly in place at Launch Pad 39A. Sitting

on top of the giant crawler transporter, the shuttle started its 3.4-mile trip from the Vehicle Assembly Building at 6:47 a.m. Discovery arrived at its seaside launch pad around noon and was secured at 1:15 p.m.

The rollout went very smoothly. Less than an hour into the move, a piece of a foam protective cover on the external fuel tank's liquid hydrogen electrical cable tray came off in gusty wind. The area is located near the bottom of the tank on the left side. The cover did not hit Discovery, and technicians do not anticipate finding damage to flight hardware, but they will conduct inspections at the launch pad and will be able to fix anything if needed.

Discovery and its seven astronaut crew members are targeted to launch Oct. 23 on the STS-120 mission to the International Space Station.

◆ **Second Annual KSC "Stress Out" Days:** Stop by either the O&C Mission Briefing Room between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Wednesday or the OSB II 5th Floor Conference Room between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday. At the vendor booths, learn about KSC occupational health programs, massage, acupuncture, relaxation therapies, counseling, mental health and caregiver services, vacation and financial planning. See demonstrations of dance, reiki and art hobbies. En-

ter drawings for prize giveaways (leisure activities, spa, dance, movie passes, books and more). Early participants will receive stress squeeze balls! For more information, call 867-3414 or 867-4566.

■ **Expedition 14 and 15 Crew Return Presentation** — Please welcome back astronauts Mike Lopez-Alegria and Suni Williams! All employees are invited to attend the Expedition 14 and 15 Crew Return Visit on Oct. 10. The presentation will be held in the KSC Training Auditorium at 11 a.m. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early! For information, please contact Layla Higgins at layla.m.higgins@nasa.gov.

■ **Reminder: Parking, Sidewalk and Street Closure** — During the installation of sidewalk and parking lot site-lighting for safety and health purposes, the parking lot on the west side in front of the HQ Building, which consists of ADA parking, visitor and electric vehicles, is CLOSED until Oct. 5. All the affected ADA vehicles may park in the east lot or the original ADA lot directly behind HQ during this time. Vehicles must show the proper hangtags and/or stickers. Please be aware that service vehicles utilize this driveway as well.

All pedestrian traffic going to and coming from facilities located west of the HQ Building shall be limited to the west and rear entrances of HQ. Also note, walking down the roadway along 1st Street is dangerous and a safety concern. Please follow signs and designated walkways and do not enter the construction site.

These restrictions will remain in effect until construction is complete and official notice is given that the permanent parking lot has been reopened. Please use caution and be diligent of ongoing construction activities.

Work hours for this project are 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



■ **Canoe Launch at KARS Park I** — In cooperation with the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge, the NASA Exchange is happy to announce the opening

of a canoe launch at KARS Park I for both employees and the public.

The new canoe launch, located at the north end of the park, opened Oct. 1 and is open daily. Cost is \$5 per day/per boat for non-KARS members. Use of the launch is free for all KARS Park members. Parking is limited and access to nonmembers may be denied if the parking area is full.

■ **NASA Science** — NASA's Mars orbiters have spotted "skylights" apparently leading to cavernous underground spaces on Mars. Read the full story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/21sep_caves.htm?list29875.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 10 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.barrett@jbsc.ksc.nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 321-867-2815. You can also find *Countdown* on the Web at nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown-toc.html.